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those which have become famous. These may well be deemed the rather creditable slips of an enthusiast. Of a different class is the omission to do all that can be done to protect the general reader from laying too much stress upon *di ta*; but the truth is that to render judicial opinions safe reading for laymen is an almost impossible undertaking.

E. W.

CORPORATIONS. A Study of the Origin and Development of Great Business Combinations and of their Relation to the Authority of the State. By John P. Davis. In two volumes. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1905. pp. ix, 318; iii, 295. 8vo.

This work was designed as an historical introduction to a more extended treatise upon "the modern corporation question," an undertaking which was cut short by the author's death in 1903. The present volumes are confined to the earlier ecclesiastical, educational, and eleemosynary corporations, to guilds and municipal corporations, and to the chartered trading companies. The development of joint-stock enterprise in the nineteenth century and all modern phases of the corporation problem are practically untouched, so that nothing but the ambitious title suggests the purpose the author had in view.

The book expressly disclaims original historical research, and professes rather to be an interpretation "of existing and accessible historical material." But even of secondary sources the author had very imperfect command; and his narrative is confined chiefly to England, dealing with other countries only when some such work as Rashdall's "Universities in Europe" gives him a broader outlook upon the facts. Even in the case of England, however, he has failed to make the most of such writers as Pollock and Maitland. For the general reader who desires an account of the early development of English corporations the book may be of some value; to the serious student it will be of little use.

The superficial character of Mr. Davis's historical chapters is not calculated to give one confidence in his interpretation of the "nature of corporations" or in his exposition of "the legal view of corporations"; and, in point of fact, these interpretative chapters yield results that are neither strikingly new nor strikingly important. It would have been well, moreover, to have deferred the consideration of the relation of corporations to the state until the history of corporate enterprise in the nineteenth century had been adequately examined. As the volumes stand, they are hardly more successful in legal interpretation than in historical research. Finally, in the reading of the proof "the author's legal representative," to whom the work fell, has not been particularly faithful to his trust.

C. J. B.

HINTS FOR FORENSIC PRACTICE. A Monograph on Certain Rules Appertaining to the Subject of Judicial Proof. By Theodore F. C. Demarest. New York: The Banks Law Publishing Company. 1905. pp. x, 123. 12mo.

This book will be of practical value to the trial lawyers of New York. It treats of objections to evidence, of striking out and disregarding evidence, and of motions to direct and set aside verdicts. Particular attention is paid to the effect of general objections, and to the meaning of the familiar but often little understood phrase, "incompetent, irrelevant, and immaterial." The text consists largely of extracts from New York decisions arranged in a novel and convenient manner. Every quotation from a decision is followed by a "remark" in a separate paragraph, which points out the relation of that case to the development of the law, and at the end of the cases upon a particular point the author's conclusions appear in an excellent summary. The method is that of a law lecture under the case system, and the happy result should commend the plan to text-writers whenever the topic handled is sufficiently limited to permit its use. Although the principles involved in Mr. Demarest's work are simple, many lawyers practise for years without thoroughly understanding them, and his